

County Profile: Hudson

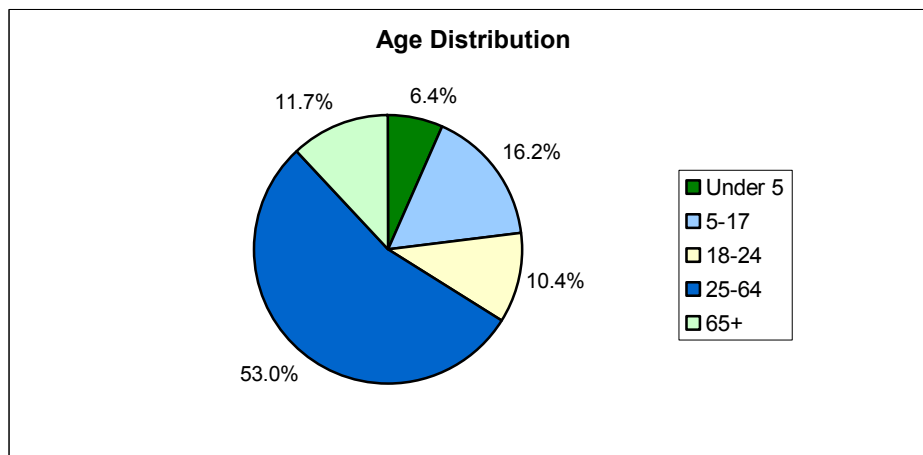


General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 608,975 individuals reside in Hudson County's 12 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 46.69 square miles, which translates into a population density of 13,043.6 persons per square mile. Hudson County is the 5th most populous of the state's 21 counties and the most densely populated county in the state. The largest city, Jersey City, with 240,055 residents accounts for almost 40% of the total population.

At 10.1%, Hudson County experienced a greater population increase from 1990 to 2000 than the overall rate for the state. All of the county's municipalities experienced gains in their population over the decade. Six municipalities grew by more than 15% from 1990 to 2000, led by the town of Guttenberg (total population – 10,807) at 30.7%, but also including the more populated municipalities of Hoboken, Kearny, Union City, West New York and North Bergen township. The least growth was reported by Bayonne (0.6%) and Jersey City (5%).

Hudson County has 137,498 children under the age of 18. They comprise 22.6% of the county's total population and 6.5% of the state's child population. Approximately 66% of Hudson County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 11.4% are 65 years and older. Hudson County has the lowest median age of any county, 33.6 years of age, compared to the statewide median of 36.7 years of age.



Child Welfare

Hudson County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals exceeds the proportion of children residing in the county. While 6.6% of all children in New Jersey reside in Hudson County, 7.1%, or 2,752 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ somewhat from the state pattern. There are more referrals for physical and sexual abuse and fewer referrals for neglect in Hudson County compared to the state. The smaller percentage of Hudson County abuse and neglect referrals are substantiated than is the case statewide.

Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001

	Hudson County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	1,250	45.4	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	14	0.9	330	0.9
Sexual	194	7.0	2,179	5.6
Neglect	1,179	42.8	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	115	4.2	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	2,752	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	3.2	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	16.2	---	21.8	---

In the three Hudson County District Offices, the active DYFS caseload is 4,766 children and 2,429 families. There are 447 in-state foster homes in Hudson County. There are 590 Hudson County children in foster care, which is 7.6% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and more than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Hudson County children in foster care, 49.8% reside in a different county than their family, which is higher than the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, thirteen children in Hudson County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. Four of the families of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death. The number of all infants who died in Hudson County in 2000 was 4, 0.6% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 2.8 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was substantially less than the statewide rate of 6.3.

Child Welfare Outcome Measures

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Hudson County is presented in the following table. For many of these indicators, Hudson County improves upon national standards. The recurrence of maltreatment in foster care is less than the national standard (2.0% vs. 6.1%) as is the incidence of abuse and neglect in foster care (.18% vs. .57%). A smaller percentage of children re-enter care within 12 months (6.7%) compared to the national standard (8.6%). Compared to the national standard, a

slightly larger percentage had no more than two placements, an indicator of placement stability (89.1% vs. 86.7%).

2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Hudson	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	2.0%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	.18%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	71.2%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	6.7%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	20.3%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	89.1%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

Definitions

Reduce recurrence of maltreatment – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

A/N incidence in foster care – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

Re-enter care within 12 months – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

Reduce time in foster care to adoption – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

Increase placement stability – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

Data Sources

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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